

## Library Council of Washington

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Washington State Law Library  
March 7, 2016

**Present:** Pam Nyberg Kiesner, Chair; Christine Peck, Vice Chair; Jane Blume, Kyle Cox, Patricia Cutright, Allyson Carlyle, Laura Dushkes, Trish Henry, Marci Howells, Ann Lally, Liz Mills, Valerie McBeth, Lorena O'English, Elizabeth Partridge, Susan Whitford, Greg Lane, Jeff Martin, and Maura Walsh

**Guests:** Tour presented by Kay Newman, Washington State Law Librarian

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### Meeting

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Pam Keisner called the meeting to order and suggested that everyone introduce himself or herself because of our new member, Ann Lally. We reviewed and corrected the meeting notes from 11/23/15; they were approved unanimously. We also reviewed and approved the agenda for the meeting.

### State Librarian Report

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Greg Lane welcomed everyone to the capitol campus and said that the ending session had been largely uneventful from the library's point of view. He reported that the hunt for a new State Librarian was progressing and they hoped to be able to present a candidate by early summer. He explained that there is an internal committee comprised of both library and executive management that are interviewing the first candidates. He said that they would reach out to stakeholders later in the process, but at this stage both confidentiality and practicality prohibit doing so. They will be included before Kim Wyman makes the final selection.

Lane commented on Rand Simmon's new work and the progress being made on a very challenging responsibility. A central component of this is partnering with selective libraries. Choosing the partners to share that responsibility and studying how others have met this burden is part of the ongoing work for Simmons.

In response to a council member's question about budget, lane replied that nothing came up during the legislative session that effected the library's budget. They are watching the dedicated fund revenue closely. Because it's transaction based it's not completely predictable. No changes are anticipated for internal library functioning.

### Top needs by constituency

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**Two Year Colleges:** the top need is extensive, quality digital access. Blume explained the current shortcomings that are all too common, and the difficulties posed by various factors including open access, ILL, connectivity, migration to a new system, limited remuneration, etc.

**Four Year Colleges:** O'English said many things on the two year list resonated. State funding is diminishing along with tuition and the libraries' budgets. There are some problematic concerns about how to use limited resources

include policies for journal purchasing, tech, and physical issues. She predicts that these problems will continue to grow.

**Library Education:** Mills explained the difficulty of connecting iSchool students with practitioners, mentorships, networks, and eventually a job. She stated that they also needed to know how the state library works and what the state library does. Martin offered a tour. Many others made suggestions about possible mentorship connections.

**Cultural Diversity:** Tribes need access to print collections outside of the library because of limited home access. The LGBTQ community needs to have information and educational materials available, especially for parents. We should make sure tribal libraries have access to resources, like Professional Development grants and training for how to get a grant, and make them available to their community.

**Underserved:** this is all about digital training and access. No access = no knowledge. This is particularly vital for underserved job seekers and there is enormous demand. Outreach is an important part of providing access, but even so gaps seem to be widening. There is a lot of isolation and too many areas without the necessary connectivity. Some people don't know computers are free and safe in the library.

**Technology:** Whitford stated that we need more physical outlets for people to plug in because they're bringing their own devices. STEAM tech and programming at all levels is huge. We also need mobile tech for librarians especially with librarians getting out into communities more and more. There's also an increase of schools bringing students to libraries for the technology the schools may lack. Sustainability is a problem. Lally commented on the cost and management of storage of digital objects – both temporary and owned. This is for all digitized materials, and it will only increase.

**Large Public Libraries:** We have a lot of good expertise and we can help each other. Funding is not the big issue. Cox thinks we're missing an excellent opportunity by not replication programming. Each library is starting from scratch and some libraries can't spend limited resources creating programming. There was discussion of a way to send the staff that created the program to other libraries to help scale and implement it in other venues.

**Smaller Public Libraries:** Libraries are still suffering from the recession and haven't recovered from cuts in staff, materials, and open hours. are needed. There is a high demand for lifelong learning from all segments. Libraries need affordable databases and help with administrative issues like strategic planning, project management, use of resources, leadership and succession planning, staff development and recruiting.

**Rural Libraries:** The best model to overcome the recession may be expanding services thru schools and other organizations. Funding can be uncertain so partners can be helpful. Small community can use pilot projects that will be sustainable and wide reaching. It's great to have access to digitization for local historic resources. Cox says his library sends staff to library school in return for signing a loyalty agreement.

**School Libraries:** Staffing equity is concern, but not something we can act on. there are a lot of struggle like curriculum alignment, transient school populations, non English speaking students, etc. one of the biggest is technology which is a critical component for education and for students. Some public libraries offer good partnerships. Cox offered that the distribution of discretionary funding changes in 2018, which should help earmark funding for libraries.

Another problem is that not all librarians are willing to do tech, but all state tests are now on computers. So when students don't have materials and access, they don't have a level playing field. The library is usually the last to get technology in the school. The STEM book collections were great!

Special Libraries: There are a wide variety of special libraries, mostly at for-profit entities. Outreach to these libraries is not optimal. SLA is a good contact point and the library directory at the state library has those who self identify. They may be able to access training or follow some statewide projects. Valerie added that at least 100,000 Washington residents don't have access to free libraries.

The PowerPoint slides are still available online.

## **Law Library Tour**

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Kay Newman gave a tour of the State Law Library. She highlighted important historical facts and shared interesting anecdotes. She also explained the staffing and requests the library receives today. It was very interesting to see the juxtaposition of a modern law library in such a historic setting.

## **Training and CE**

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Carolyn Petersen discussed the highlights of a survey conducted by the state library to help determine training needs for library staff statewide. Most respondents preferred daylong, in-person trainings. Two-thirds of webinar attendees are not synchronous. High on the list of requested trainings are customer service, communication, project management skills and emergency response. Petersen thought it would also be good to offer effective writing skills. Shirley Lewis is planning trustee training.

## **Info sharing**

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- Washington Rural Heritage grants are available without restriction on the population being served by the applicant library. There are also grants for metadata preparation using DPLA standards. Council would like to have a presentation about digital preservation for tribes.
- We discussed how to include the greater librarian community in Library Council meetings. Informal invitations to local library community members seems to be the best method for now. The interested public is welcome and we'll encourage informal outreach.
- Project Views2 is now available online.
- Petersen explained how to Sign up for our available tech circuits. There are four new kits: Roominate village, Snap circuits, Makey-makey, and Ozobots. Lego Mindstorms and Eggbots kits are still circulating as well.
- April 9 is the big library 9th gala at Central Washington University.
- We need to improve the welcome packet for new members. We'll post the PowerPoint with these meetings notes online so you may ask questions.
- We discussed locations for upcoming meetings:
  - May 23rd WSU – digital preservation for tribes, lorena
  - September 12th – either in Longview or Kalama
  - November 18th – Mead, King Co Admin Center, Kingston library, etc. TBD

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